

Labour statistics recent and upcoming developments

Guide to labour statistics

Overview of recent and upcoming developments, and emerging priorities, in ABS labour statistics

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This page provides an overview of recent and upcoming developments in the ABS Labour Statistics Program, including information on the many changes and developments, and emerging priorities, that will help shape labour statistics into the future.

It starts with a quick overview of additional work to address priority labour market data gaps (which was funded by the Australian Government following the release of the [Working Future White Paper \(https://treasury.gov.au/employment-whitepaper/final-report\)](https://treasury.gov.au/employment-whitepaper/final-report)), and then provides updates on a range of current work and recent releases of interest.

Like the rest of the [Guide to labour statistics \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/), this page will be a 'living document' which is updated periodically, to provide a contemporary reference on progress and priorities within the program. Older updates will be moved to the 'Previous updates' section at the end of this page.

If you have any questions, would like further information on any of the updates, or would like to provide feedback on the usefulness or content of this page, please contact us via labour.statistics@abs.gov.au (<mailto:labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>).

Summary of investment to address labour market data gaps



Following the release of [Working Future: The Australian Government's White Paper on Jobs and Opportunities](https://treasury.gov.au/employment-whitepaper/final-report) (<https://treasury.gov.au/employment-whitepaper/final-report>) on 25 September 2023, the ABS received investment to address priority labour market data gaps.

This additional investment in the labour statistics program builds on earlier funding ABS received to either address gaps (e.g. measuring digital platform workers), increase the frequency of our statistics (e.g. annual barriers and incentives data, complemented by quarterly indicators), or to improve the quality of existing statistics (e.g. enhanced regional labour force data).

The priority data gaps funded through the White paper, and associated work, are:

Enhancing data on employment outcomes and barriers

- Linking the [Labour Force Survey](#) ([/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release](#))(LFS) to relevant administrative data (such as employment services and income support data) in the [Person Linked Integrated Data Asset \(PLIDA\)](#) ([/about/data-services/data-integration/integrated-data/person-level-integrated-data-asset-plida](#)).
- Producing new summary statistics and insights, including some longitudinal analysis, using the linked LFS-PLIDA data and the existing Longitudinal LFS.

Labour Household Survey content modernisation

- Collecting more survey data on an continuous basis – and producing new statistics – related to quality of employment, job security, barriers to job mobility and career progression, and additional insights into people who are not employed.
- Producing an integrated suite of monthly underutilisation measures (u-series).
- Addressing legacy collection issues and limitations.

Expanding the Labour Account to measure unpaid care and add demographic breakdowns

- Improving the data available on the amount (hours) and estimated monetary value of unpaid care through an expansion to the [Labour Account](#) ([/statistics/labour/labour-accounts/labour-account-australia/latest-release](#)), to ensure its contribution to society and the economy is more visible alongside paid work. On 27 June 2025, the ABS released an [Information paper](#) ([/articles/13-key-details-about-unpaid-care-and-modelling-sex-and-age-labour-account#expanding-the-labour-account-to-measure-unpaid-care-and-add-demographic-breakdowns](#)) measuring unpaid care, and will provide a further update in June 2026.
- New estimates of sex and age group were added to the quarterly Labour Account on 13 March 2026, to provide a meaningful point of comparison between paid work and unpaid care as responsibilities are not distributed evenly across the population.

Consulting with First Nations people on more frequent employment data

- Consulting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on more frequent employment data requirements and potential solutions to address data gaps for communities and improve reporting against Closing the Gap Outcome 8 (Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities).

Modernising the Labour Force Survey

- As part of the [ABS Data Acquisition Modernisation Program](#) ([/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey](#)), we are making improvements to how we collect the Labour Force Survey so we can continue to produce high quality labour force statistics, maintain response rates, deliver an improved experience for survey respondents, and improve the efficiency of our business.
- We are committed to ensuring you are informed of changes in advance of them being implemented. Regular updates will be published on the [Modernising the Labour Force Survey](#) ([/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey](#)).

[dernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey](#)). page. This will also include the [changes to the way we collect the supplementary surveys \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/characteristics-employment-australia/aug-2025\)](#).

Labour Account (including adding unpaid care and demographic breakdowns)

- On 13 March 2026, sex and age group modelling was incorporated into the [quarterly Labour Account \(/statistics/labour/labour-accounts/labour-account-australia/latest-release\)](#). Sex and age group estimates are available from September quarter 1994 to the current quarter, at the Industry and Total All Industries levels. For more information see the [Information paper \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/update-measuring-unpaid-care-and-modelling-sex-and-age-labour-account\)](#) released in June 2025.
- In June 2026, the ABS will provide a further update on measuring unpaid care in the Labour Account.
- [Indicative state estimates \(/articles/modelled-state-and-territory-industry-estimates-jobs-and-hours-worked\)](#) for jobs and hours worked were released again alongside the June quarter 2025 Labour Account release. This demonstrates potential for future disaggregation of the Labour Account with additional data and investment.

Linking Labour Force Survey (LFS) to Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA)

- From January 2026 Labour Force Survey data is available as a PLIDA Modular Product and can be requested by DataLab researchers.
- [PLIDA \(/about/data-services/data-integration/integrated-data/person-level-integrated-data-asset-plida\)](#) is a secure data asset combining information on health, education, government payments, income and taxation, employment, and population demographics (including the Census) over time.
- To assist users, a guide to the [Labour Force Survey-PLIDA linked microdata product \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-and-data-item-guide/labour-force-survey-plida-linked-microdata-product\)](#) has been published.
- LFS data from June 2023 to December 2025 is currently available with each new month to be integrated following the release of [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release\)](#).

Monthly Employee Earnings Indicator (MEEI)

- The 25 February 2026 release will include the new employee jobs measure along with an article to explain what an employee job is, how it is derived and presents some initial introductory insights with respect to its relationship with wages and salaries paid by employers.

Consulting with First Nations people on more frequent employment data

- The ABS engaged Indigenous Professional Services (IPS) to consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in late 2024 through to early 2025, about the perceptions and attitudes on the use of integrated data to address labour market data gaps for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.
- The ABS would like to acknowledge and thank those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated in the consultation process and shared their views with IPS.
- Feedback so far highlights the strong support for addressing labour market data gaps for Aboriginal and Torres Strait people and highlighted key areas of consideration and benefit to the implementation of integrated data sets in addressing data gaps for communities, with an emphasis on further work on Census and administrative data to improve the efficacy and potential of the approach. The importance of aligning to the principles of the [Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data \(GID\) \(https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.niaa.gov.au%2Ffour-work%2Fdata-evaluation-and-research%2Fframework-governance-indigenous-data-gid&data=05%7C02%7CAmanda.Duff%40abs.gov.au%7C4ad1370563cf42b95ea608de26948ffc%7C34c](#)

[db737c4fa4c219a3488ac2d721f88%7C0%7C0%7C638990616677036036%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMtIlksFOIjoIjWTFpbGlzIlldUjjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wMJUT56sm4GEQ0hyhcEQ3raJengc2Vrw96rVCeX5GhM%3D&reserved=0](#) and Indigenous Data Sovereignty and to continuing to be open and transparent and ensuring information is returned back to communities were also emphasised during the consultations.

- The ABS is engaging with the ABS Round Table on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics, The Coalition of Peaks, Labour Statistics Advisory Group and Government partners to plan the next phase of the project. We will share more information as our plans progress.

Guide to labour statistics

- The [Labour Force Survey products and data item guide](https://statisticsunderstandingstatistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-guide) ([/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-guide](https://statisticsunderstandingstatistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-guide)) was updated on 29 January 2026. Now providing a guide to using the [LFS modular product in the Person Level Integrated Data Asset \(PLIDA\)](https://statisticsunderstandingstatistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-and-data-item-guide/labour-force-survey-plida-linked-microdata-product) ([/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-and-data-item-guide/labour-force-survey-plida-linked-microdata-product](https://statisticsunderstandingstatistics/guide-labour-statistics/labour-force-survey-products-and-data-item-guide/labour-force-survey-plida-linked-microdata-product)), in addition to the comprehensive overview of Labour Force Survey products, the data items available and ways to access LFS data.

Modelled regional labour force estimates

- New modelled SA4 labour force estimates, by age and sex, for the period January 2012 onwards, were published in [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release#modelled-labour-market-regions-sa4-\)](#) on 24 July 2025.
- Backcast modelled regional labour force estimates by SA4, for the period 2012 onwards, were published in the [Labour Force detailed release \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/feb-2025#modelled-labour-market-regions-sa4-\)](#) on 27 February 2025.

Previous updates

Summary of previous key updates



- The release of the [Monthly Employee Earnings Indicator \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/monthly-employee-earnings-indicator/latest-release\)](#) on 19 November 2025 included updated methods which improve the quality of state and territory estimates across the time series.
- The [Public Sector Employment and Earnings \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/public-sector-employment-and-earnings/latest-release\)](#) was released on 6 November 2025, adding employee jobs as at June 2025 and cash wages and salaries for the 2024-25 financial year.
- The [Labour Force Survey TableBuilder \(https://author-production.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/labour-force-survey\)](#) was updated on 23 October 2025, with data now covering the period August 2006 to August 2025.
- The [Payroll Jobs \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/latest-release\)](#) release on 24 July 2025 included updating of employer characteristics (industry and employment size) and was the final release.
- On 27 June 2025, the ABS released an additional [Information paper \(/articles/13-key-details-about-unpaid-care-and-modelling-sex-and-age-labour-account#expanding-the-labour-account-to-measure-unpaid-care-and-add-demographic-breakdowns\)](#) expanding the model of unpaid care to include adult care and a time series, and modelling of sex and age group dimensions in the Labour Account. This followed the November 2024 release of an [Information paper \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/measuring-labour-contribution-unpaid-care-labour-account#expanding-the-labour-account-to-measure-unpaid-care-and-add-demographic-breakdowns\)](#) on initial concepts, methods and experimental estimates of the total hours spent on unpaid care and their monetary value, followed by a [public consultation \(https://consult.abs.gov.au/labour-statistics/unpaid-care-consultation/\)](#) process.
- State and territory by sector estimates of total wages and salaries paid by employers were added to the latest

release of [Monthly Employee Earnings Indicator \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/monthly-employee-earnings-indicator/latest-release\)](#) on 21 May 2025.

- The [Labour Force Survey TableBuilder \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/labour-force-survey\)](#) was released on 18 March 2025 covering LFS data from August 2006 to July 2024. (March 2025)
- An article on [seasonal adjustment and changing seasonality in labour force statistics \(https://author-production.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/articles/seasonal-adjustment-and-changing-seasonality-labour-force-statistics-january-2025\)](#) was published with the January 2025 LFS release. This builds on information included in the [April 2024 release \(https://author-production.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/articles/seasonal-adjustment-and-changing-seasonality-labour-force-statistics\)](#) and in other ABS releases, such as [Retail trade statistics \(https://author-production.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/articles/changes-seasonality-retail-turnover\)](#).
- The first edition of the [Occupation Standard Classification for Australia \(OSCA\) \(https://author-production.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/osca-occupation-standard-classification-australia/2024-version-1-0\)](#) was released on 6 December 2024. Use of the new updated classification will be reflected progressively in official labour market statistics from August 2026 and in 2026 Census data outputs, to improve visibility of new and emerging occupations. This follows the completion of a [comprehensive review of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations \(ANZSCO\) \(https://author-production.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/about/consultation-and-conferences/updating-anzSCO\)](#) in December 2024.
- On 29 November 2024, the ABS released an [Information paper \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/measuring-labour-contribution-unpaid-care-labour-account\)](#) with details on initial concepts, methods and experimental estimates of the total hours spent on unpaid care and their monetary value. (November 2024). From December 2024 to February 2025, the ABS gathered feedback on the proposed approach to measuring the labour contribution of unpaid care through a [public consultation \(https://consult.abs.gov.au/labour-statistics/unpaid-care-consultation/\)](#) process.
- [Jobs in Australia \(/statistics/labour/jobs/jobs-australia/latest-release\)](#) and [Personal Income in Australia \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/personal-income-australia/latest-release\)](#) were released on 8 November 2024. For the first time the Personal Income in Australia release included information on non-lodgers with employee income (November 2024).
- Quarterly releases of [Monthly Employee Earnings Indicator \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/monthly-employee-earnings-indicator/latest-release\)](#) commenced, including estimates of total wages and salaries paid by employers by industry subdivision (November 2024).
- Quarterly release of [Payroll jobs \(/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/latest-release\)](#) commenced (October 2024).
- An [Information paper \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/future-directions-modelled-regional-labour-force-estimates-using-administrative-data\)](#) with plans for adding sex and age breakdowns to the SA4 data, and producing data below the SA4 level, was released in June 2024. This data will be available in 2025. (June 2024)
- [Monthly Employee Earnings Indicator \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/monthly-employee-earnings-indicator/latest-release\)](#) included further enhancements to the way we use Single Touch Payroll data to produce level estimates and movements (May 2024).
- [New monthly modelled LFS SA4 level estimates \(/media-centre/media-releases/better-monthly-regional-labour-market-data-now-available\)](#) were released on 2 May 2024 in the [detailed release \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release\)](#), along with a new [guide to regional labour market data \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/regional-labour-market-data-guide\)](#). They are now published monthly with the detailed release.
- First release of [Labour Hire Workers \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/labour-hire-workers/latest-release\)](#) on the new regular release schedule of April each year (April 2024).
- Employer characteristics in [Payroll Jobs \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/jobs/payroll-jobs/week-ending-16-march-2024\)](#) indexes were updated (March 2024).
- Improvements to Labour Force estimation were implemented with the February 2024 release to [better account for difficult to enumerate parts of the sample \(https://author-production.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/articles/revisions-improvements-labour-force-estimation-method\)](#) (around 2% of the sample). Further enhancements were implemented in August 2024.
- Data on the [use of restraint clauses \(/articles/restraint-clauses-australia-2023\)](#) in employment contracts (e.g. non-

complete clauses) released (February 2024).

- Data on [Public Sector Employment and Earnings \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/public-sector-employment-and-earnings/2022-23\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/public-sector-employment-and-earnings/2022-23) released, replacing the previous survey-based estimates with [Single Touch Payroll data and survey comparisons \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/public-sector-employment-and-earnings/latest-release#data-source-comparison-see-psee\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/public-sector-employment-and-earnings/latest-release#data-source-comparison-see-psee) (November 2023).
- [Experimental estimates of households and average household size \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-status-families/latest-release#households\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-status-families/latest-release#households) were added to the 2023 Labour Force Status of Families release. (October 2023)
- The [Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/barriers-and-incentives-labour-force-participation-australia/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/barriers-and-incentives-labour-force-participation-australia/latest-release) is now collected on a continuous basis and released quarterly (as well as annually).
- Major rebenchmarking of estimates to the final Estimated Resident Population after 2021 Census has been completed.